



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

Print Post Publication Number 381667 00258

Vol.37, No.16

May 4th, 2001

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"Brain-washers use a technique of conversion which does not depend only on the heightening of group suggestibility, but also on the fomenting in an individual of anxiety, of a sense of real or imaginary guilt, and a conflict of loyalties, strong and prolonged enough to bring about the desired collapse... The Chinese Communists know that everybody at one time or another has what can be branded as 'evil thoughts' and that if the doctrine can be accepted, that thought is as wicked in its way as action, they have the whip-hand over people. Where Russia set out to shape lives first and foremost, China is embarked on the task of shaping minds as well... It is something much more formidable..."*

– **"Battle for the Mind"** by William Sargant, 1957

WONDERS WILL NEVER CEASE by Jeremy Lee:

The decision by Treasurer Peter Costello to prevent Shell's takeover bid for Australia's North-West Gas project goes against everything the Howard Government – and the Keating Government before it – has pursued since coming to office. The record of the Foreign Investment Review Board bears testimony. With an executive of 23 Treasury economists and an annual budget of \$2.1 million, last year the FIRB approved 3,907 foreign applications worth \$78 billion, rejecting only 96. In the previous financial year the board rejected 112 applications and approved 4,754. (*The Australian Financial Review*, 26/4/01)

The FIRB is chaired by Sydney businessman Mr. John Phillips, and also includes former federal Liberal Chris Miles, and NSW Lotteries Corp director Ms. Lynn Wood.

With such a handsome budget and research facilities the FIRB should be a shining light. But it is stymied by the lack of any definition of what is the "national interest" it is supposed to be reviewing. Trevor Sykes, in *The Australian Financial Review* (24/4/01) commented: "FIRB has been a rubber stamp to foreign marauders for nearly a decade because there are no clear rules on what represents that foggy entity called 'the national interest'."

Paul Cleary, writing in the same issue, said: "... the most damning assessment of the regime comes from a 1994 Senate inquiry chaired by the Minister for Communications, Senator Richard Alston, at the time an Opposition frontbencher. In the report, 'Percentage Players', the inquiry concluded that the system was opaque and open to corruption.

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"The committee believes that this system is fundamentally flawed. The problem is not that wrong decisions are made, but that the system detached itself from scrutiny

"The possibility of corruption, deal-making, or political favouritism will always exist in such an environment. A general election is an inadequate redress for parties adversely affected by apparently unsound foreign investment decisions"

To say the least, it would be surprising if, with annual applications worth \$78 billion, there were not a few lavish luncheons and other inducements involved.

It has been obvious until now that foreign multinationals and investors regard Australia as their own tramping ground. So there is much "weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth" at Costello's decision.

"Acting in the 'national interest' means never having to say 'sorry'. By blocking Shell's takeover of Woodside Petroleum on Monday, the Treasurer, Peter Costello, has made a shocking anti-market decision. Xenophobia and capital snobbery are unaffordable luxuries that Australians have long indulged" (Sinclair Davidson, *AFR*, 26/4/01)

"COSTELLO 'SHOOTS INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS IN THE BACK'Fund managers, stockbrokers and currency traders based in the US said the decision had made Australia less attractive for multinational companies" (Aaron Patrick and Lenore Taylor, *AFR*, 26/4/01)

Mike Nathan, executive director of the Institute of Public Affairs, (which receives funding from both Shell and Woodside Petroleum) said: *"... The fact is, Australia can't afford to shut out foreign investment, particularly in capital-intensive and technologically advanced industries such as petroleum"*

The *Chanticleer* column (*AFR*, 24/4/01) made a realistic point: *"... The fact is, if Costello has any intellectual credibility he would admit that, had he been faced with the decision at this time last year, he would have imposed tight conditions on Shell and allowed it to table its bid to get control of Woodside"*

Of course, *Chanticleer* is right; and the Editorial in the same issue explained why: *".... No matter how the Government attempts to justify its decision, the truth is that it has buckled under populist pressure The Government must do more to confront the fears that fuel opposition to foreign investment. People who vote for politicians such as Pauline Hanson fear the country is being taken out of their control by the forces of globalisation"*

Which raises the question – isn't it the duty of government to represent the pressure and will of the people, rather than multinationals? The corporations may have funded the parties to the score of millions of dollars; but the people *voted* for the politicians and must come first when it comes to representation.

And the people are speaking! The letter-columns of *The Australian* (26/4/01) following the decision were a true reflection of what ordinary Australians feel:

"All sides of the political fence should applaud the Government's decision to keep Woodside in Australian handsIt is about time we not only kept some of the paddocks but tried to buy back the farm" wrote a Brisbane writer.

" Only a series of wimpish Australian governments has allowed one industry after another to be

taken over by overseas interests. Every time this happens, Australians are thrown out of work and our balance of payments gets worse because profits which had previously stayed in Australia are sent overseas" wrote a South Australian correspondent.

".... To the world: We aren't as stupid as our past conduct has implied. To Lib backbenchers: Their wishes do count when they stand up for their constituents. To Labor: Don't count your chickens for October" wrote a third from NSW.

While the feelings of ordinary Australians is increasingly obvious to politicians, very few journalists have supported national sovereignty as opposed to global control. One of the few was Ivor Ries, writing in *The Australian Financial Review* (24/4/01): *"In rejecting the Shell bid, Mr. Costello clearly refused to be held hostage by speculators – many of whom had hired public relations spruikers to threaten the collapse of the \$A – and to take a long-term view of the national interest. While Mr. Costello's decision may be brave, he is certainly not blazing a new path. The US and many European countries regularly block or impose severe conditions on foreign takeovers on the grounds of national interest...."*

All of which goes to show that the will of Australians CAN prevail once it is given focus. The annual survey by Quantum Market Research – quoted last week – is very significant in an election year. The full report costs \$20,000, and is studied by bankers, insurers, food and drink companies, car makers, media groups and government agencies. To be sure, with a federal election looming, many a politician in a marginal seat will be looking anxiously at the findings.

The Quantum Market Research's annual AustraliaScan social values study states that Australians are angry and emotional at what has been happening to their country. A review of the report (*The Australian*, Media section, 19-25/4/01) said: *"Companies should expect more volatility. Sixty per-cent of the 2000 annual respondents believe globalisation is dangerous and a threat to our way of life Australians have decided in the past two years they don't like the reform and change agenda of the 90s AustraliaScan expects people to lash out at governments, big business and in their shopping styles" says Quantum's social researcher David Chalke: 'Those pressures have been building up and because they happen gradually, nobody really notices them and nobody really responds to them until something comes along externally. Another recession or downturn has knocked the top off the pressure cooker. It's not a nice picture at the moment. There's a sense of division and polarisation"*

Normally, arrogant politicians respond to such views by saying they have not explained the benefits of their programmes adequately to the people. They add that they are prepared to listen. Such tripe is now running out for globalisation-driven-and-funded parties. This applies as much to the ALP as to the Lib/Nats. Only a new direction will earn merit points for future representatives.

It is a combination of all these factors that have forced the Howard government to make a decision over Woodside and Shell that it wouldn't have even considered a year or two ago.

This is a very good time for *On Target* readers to drop a line to their federal members saying that, for once, Treasurer Costello has made the right decision. Who knows? He might even make a second one!

PEOPLE SICK OF SLEAZE: Another finding by Quantum Research's AustraliaScan: *"....There has also been a steady rise in the number who say sexually-explicit language on television is not acceptable. Of some concern for advertisers with a raunchy bent is the 20 percent increase in those who find sex themes in advertising on the nose (65 percent)...."*

So if you're sick of sleazy advertising material, drop a line to the company concerned, mentioning the AustraliaScan findings, also saying that you have been put off their products by the advertisement. Yes, YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. As we've pointed out before, the letter that is NOT written affects no-one.

Federal Members and Senators can be reached by simply writing to Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600. We'd be interested in any startling replies.

THE 'PRIORITIES' OF WA's LABOR GOVERNMENT by Betty Luks:

It is not that long since government in WA changed from Liberal to Labor hands. The voters threw the Liberals out with the help of the minor parties and Independents.

But is the new Labor Government eager to tackle the issues that are causing such stress and break-up of families and destroying the social fabric of communities, towns and cities? Not likely!

One would have thought issues such as growing drug abuse, home invasions, more and more international control over our affairs, even the push by Shell to take over Woodside Petroleum might have been of priority concern to them. But no.

You know what is of pressing concern for the Gallop Labor government? Lowering the age of consent for homosexual activity to the ripe old age of 16 years! And they intend to push ahead with plans to lower the age of consent despite community opposition!

This further debauching of our young in the West (along with the North, South and East) is going to be pushed through 'anti-discrimination' legislation.

THE METAMORPHOSIS OF CHILD INTO ADULT: As a child goes through the special phase from childhood to adulthood there are many physiological and emotional changes taking place. A boy's body and mind is slowly changing from that of a child to that of a man. It is a special phase he is going through. He has not reached that level of development where he discovers he 'likes' girls, in fact he still prefers the company of his own same-sex friends.

This is a very vulnerable phase and is open to all sorts of exploitation, including the idea, the suggestion that he has homosexual leanings (therefore he must have been born a homosexual).

He has all these hormones racing around his body as he goes through puberty, and his life and emotions seem to be on a roller-coaster ride. It is like a caterpillar going into the cocoon phase and when all the wonderful mysterious natural things take place, it leaves the cocoon as a beautiful butterfly.

So the boy-child goes through the wonderful metamorphosis (phase) of puberty and having come through that phase, has changed into the physical and emotional young-adult.

He now 'discovers' girls and finds that he actually 'likes' them and as he matures finds he 'likes' one in particular. He has discovered some of the fixed immutables of human nature – of Natural Law.